

# Stewart/Hunter Lifestyle

## Bridal Fair showers Families with joy



Graphic by Spc. Christopher Molina

Photos by Sgt. Tanya Polk

**LaTasha Jefferson, spouse to Spc. Thomas Jefferson, HHC 1/3 BTB, tried one of the many dresses donated by Claire Knight, former owner of Savannah's Hitching Post for the Fort Stewart/ Hunter Army Airfield Bridal Shower, held at Club Stewart, May 19. The event featured a variety of vendors to help Soldiers and their Families prepare for their weddings.**

**Sgt. Tanya Polk**  
*Editor*

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted a Bridal Fair at Club Stewart, May 19. Featuring a host of Bridal exhibitors, the fair gave Soldiers and Families the opportunity to see what florists, caterers, limo services, photographers, decorators, beauticians, and several other vendors had to offer. "We came to see the vendors and get more information," said Crystal Brown, soon-to-be spouse to Sgt. Chris Fallon, MEDDAC. "We don't

have everything yet." Several people sought out the Bridal Fair as an opportunity to pre-plan while their fiancé is deployed. "We got engaged right before he deployed," said Toni Perrotta, fiancé of Capt. Brent Chastaine, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment. "I came to get some more ideas so that I don't get overwhelmed at the last minute. This is also for mom and dad to understand what they are getting themselves into," she said with a smile.

In addition to the fair, MWR gave military ID card holders the opportunity to shop for a free wedding dress. Claire Knight, former owner of Savannah's Hitching Post, donated several dresses and wedding accessories to Fort Stewart after closing her shop. "They are keeping me free," Knight explained why she donated the dresses to the military. "It's the least that I can do. I thought they needed a reward." A reward it most certainly was. Knight watched as tears of joy welled the eyes of several

women as they tried on and walked away with free dresses. "I felt like Cinderella putting it on," exclaimed Patricia Berg, fiancé to Cpl. James Hiner, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team. "I didn't think I'd find one, but this one fits perfect!" Knight helped several women try on their new dresses. "Most of them were crying so much that they couldn't see straight," said Knight. "Just to see that warms my heart."

## Community takes time to learn safety, the fun way

**Pat Young**  
*Frontline Staff*

The Fort Stewart Post Exchange parking lot was crowded with Soldiers, Family Members and other local community members to take part in the installation safety day, May 18. Thousands of people stopped by throughout the day to check out the attractions. They came from Fort Stewart, Hunter Army Airfield, and surrounding communities. "I think it went really well," said event coordinator Jeff Willis. "We had quite a few off-post agencies show up to help. They were a big hit with the Soldiers." Safety was the primary focus of the afternoon long event, which featured motorcycle, privately owned vehicle, boat, railroad, and fire information booths. The event offered a great variety of entertainment and information provided by Fort Stewart's Directorate of Emergency Services, Game and Warden Services, Jesup Police, Hinesville Highway Patrol, Hinesville Police

and CSX railroad of Savannah. One of the crowd favorites was the Driving Under the Influence simulators. Audience members were allowed to try on goggles that simulated the loss of coordination associated with intoxication. Participants would try to walk straight lines, touch their noses, and even try to drive a golf cart through traffic cones. Participants found, to the audiences delight and their dismay, the lack of control and coordination greatly impaired their ability to maintain control of their movements, much less their vehicle. Other stations at the event included motorcycle advance riding and safety tips; boating safety; fire prevention; substance abuse prevention, an accident roll-over simulator, and railroad safety. "I personally liked the water safety and boating display," Willis said. "It was real applicable for this time of year, and a big hit with everyone." For more information about safety day activities, call 767-7878.



Pvt. Jerome Arp

**Gleman Holland (right) who works at the Director of Information Management office on Fort Stewart, tests her ability to drive a golf cart with restricted vision caused by "beer goggles," Beer goggles are special eyewear designed to simulate the effects of impaired vision caused by alcohol consumption. This education event focused on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse and other unsafe practices while driving held near the main PX, May 18.**

## MOWW Leadership Conference



Nancy Gould

**An Apache pilot from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment briefed a small group of cadets, who were among 40 others from seven local high schools who attended the second annual Military Order of World Wars Leadership Conference on Hunter Army Airfield, May 18. Activities during the day included lectures at Saber Hall and practical exercises geared to foster patriotism, and develop leadership skills. "The conference builds teamwork and exposes students to new information," said Lt. Commander Tom Johnson, Jenkins High School senior science instructor. "Not all my cadets will enter the military. Some are here for discipline and to become better citizens. This training is valuable, whatever they do."**

## Winn tries terrific truffle



Ann Erickson

**Debra Scott Russell, of Thomasville, hands Col. Scott Goodrich, commander Winn Army Community Hospital a piece of chocolate truffle at Winn, May 21. The "Russell Truffle", created by Russell, was originally 359 pounds. Russell brought the giant truffle to Fort Stewart to say thank you to all the Soldiers and Family Members for their service to the nation. The truffle was made with 291 pounds of bittersweet chocolate, 37 pounds of butter and 31 pounds of cream.**



## Pets of the Week



Paris and her four-week old kittens and Nina, a four-month old golden retriever mix are some of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes, and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.



## MWR Briefs

### The Army Soldier Show is on the way

The Soldier Show at Stewart will be 7 p.m. May 30 and 31 at Newman Fitness Center. It will visit Hunter Army Airfield at 7 p.m. June 6 at the Hunter Club. Enjoy an evening full of fun and entertainment! Admission is free.

There will be a cast party afterwards starting at 9 p.m. May 30 at Stewart and June 6 at the Hunter Club. For more information, call 767-6212.

### Outdoor pools to open soon

Start the summer off with a splash with the opening of Corkan, Bryan Village and Hunter Army Airfield pools. The season begins Saturday and runs through Sept. 3. the pools are open 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily.

### The water park at Fort Stewart opens Saturday

Come get soaked at The Springs at Cypress Creek for ages 12 and under. Admission: \$1.

The season runs Saturday through Aug. 18. The park is open noon to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, call 767-4273.

### Learn the story of Memorial Day

"Memorial Day" the story is available on Dial-A-Story, May 28. Call 767-2843 to hear it.

### Check out the summer camps at Hunter

School Age Services and Youth Services will hold summer camps at Hunter Army Airfield May 28 - Aug. 31. Both programs include field trips, sports, fitness, nutrition, arts and crafts, computer and recreational activities, community projects, boys and girls club activities, and more. The school age services camp is 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. It is open to children in grades first through fifth. Camp fees are charged weekly based on family income. No extra cost for field trips, meals and snacks. A middle school and teen summer program open noon to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. The program is open to youth grades sixth through 10th. There is no cost to participate in this program and free lunch will be provided at the youth center. Youth are responsible for field trip expenses. For more information, call 315-5708 or 215-6075.



## AAFES PRESENTS

MAY 25 THROUGH 31



### Blades of Glory

**Friday-Sunday 7 — 6 p.m.**

(Will Ferrell, Jon Heder)

Chazz Michael Michaels was the rock star of the skating arena, leaving a trail of thrashed ice and shrieking female fans in his wake. The only competitor who could match Michaels scores was the driven former child prodigy, Jimmy MacElroy. These two fierce competitors erupted into a no-holds-barred fight at the World Championships, resulting in a ban for life. To skate again, all Chazz and Jimmy have to do is set aside their long festering hatred of one another and join forces--as the first male/male figure skating pair to compete in the history of the sport. *Rated PG-13 (crude/sexual humor, language, comic violence, drug references) 93 min*

### Perfect Stranger

**Saturday, Sunday — 8:30 p.m.**

(Halle Berry, Bruce Willis)

Only When investigative reporter Rowena Price learns that her friend's murder might be connected to powerful ad executive Harrison

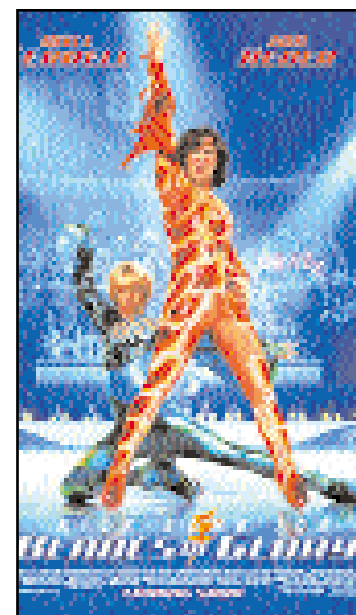
Hill, she goes undercover with the help of her associate, Miles Hailey. Posing as Katherine, a 'temp' at Hill's ad agency, and Veronica, a girl Hill flirts with online, Rowena surrounds her prey from all sides, only to discover that she isn't the only one changing identities. The closer Rowena gets to finding the truth, the more we see how far people will go to protect it. *Rated R (sexuality, nudity, violence, language) 119 min*

### Pathfinder

**May 30-31 — 7 p.m.**

(Karl Urban, Moon Bloodgood)

A thousand years in the past, a young Norse boy is left behind after his clan shipwrecks on the Eastern shores. Despite his lineage, the boy is raised by the very Indians his kinsmen set out to destroy. Now, as the Vikings return to stage another barbaric raid on his village, the 25 year-old Norse warrior wages a personal war to stop the Vikings' trail of death and destruction. Forging his own path, his destiny is revealed and his identity re-claimed. *Rated R (strong brutal violence) 99 min*



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule, but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel, or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069.

# HEALTH W•A•C•H

Winn Army Community Hospital

## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

### TRICARE Management Activity

A servicemember with mental health issues is not a problem servicemember, but a servicemember with a problem. Many behavioral health care services are available to these servicemembers as well as their Families.

The Defense Department offers free online and telephone mental health and alcohol self-assessments for a range of common emotional situations that often go undiagnosed and are misunderstood. Voluntary and completely anonymous, the Mental Health Self-Assessment Program is a mental health and alcohol self-assessment for servicemembers and their Families affected by deployment. It's offered online at [www.militarymentalhealth.org](http://www.militarymentalhealth.org) and via the telephone 24 hours per day, seven days per week at 1-877-877-3647, as well as through local in-person events.

"The Mental Health Self-Assessment Program is a place for our military Family members to connect when they feel disconnected," said Dr. Jack Smith, acting deputy assistant secretary of defense for Clinical and Program Policy and acting chief medical officer, TRICARE Management Activity. "It may not solve the problem, but it's a good place to start."

The program offers self-tests for depression, bipolar disorder, alcohol problems, general anxiety disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder. Once completed, the self-assessment gives information on where servicemembers may go for a full evaluation. Another valuable resource is Military OneSource, a 24-hour, seven-day-per-week, toll-free information and referral service for active duty servicemembers, activated guardsmen and reservists, deployed civilians and Family members. It provides comprehensive information on a wide range of topics from everyday concerns to deployment and reintegration issues. A Military OneSource consultant may refer servicemembers or eligible Family members to licensed professional counselors in the local community for six sessions per problem at

no cost to the servicemember or their Family member in the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Face-to-face counseling confidentially addresses short-term issues dealing with relationships, grief and loss, adjustment to deployment, stress management, parenting or combat stress.

For more information, please contact Military OneSource by using the following information:

- Web site: [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com) (enter User ID: Military; Password: OneSource)
- Phone: Stateside (toll free): 800-342-9647

### TRICARE

TRICARE offers behavioral health care coverage for medically necessary services. To save money, beneficiaries should seek behavioral health care from a military treatment facility, when available, or from a TRICARE network provider. For those who need help overcoming alcohol and/or drug abuse, TRICARE covers detoxification, rehabilitation and outpatient care provided in an authorized substance abuse rehabilitation facility. Beneficiaries should ask their primary care managers or a mental health specialist about treatment options.

For additional information about covered and non-covered behavioral health care services, beneficiaries should consult the handbook for their TRICARE program option, access the TRICARE Behavioral Health Benefits Pamphlet through [www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/default.aspx](http://www.tricare.mil/tricaresmart/default.aspx) or contact their regional contractor at [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil).

Following redeployment, servicemembers learn coping strategies to reintegrate with their Families, how to manage expectations, the importance of communication and to be careful about alcohol use. During redeployment processing, servicemembers are screened for depression or stress-related problems.

For both short- and long-term problems, behavioral or mental health care is available.

## Winn Briefs

### Winn/Tuttle observing federal holiday

Friday is a training holiday and Monday is Memorial Day, a federal holiday. On Friday, services at Winn Army Community Hospital will be limited to inpatient care, Family practice clinic and emergencies. On Monday, services at Winn will be limited to inpatient care and emergencies. Full operations will resume Tuesday. All services at Tuttle Army Health Clinic and the Lloyd C. Hawks Troop Medical Clinic will be closed Friday and Monday. Full operations will resume Tuesday.

### New student in Georgia?

If you couldn't make it to the mass school health screening all services except eye and ear screenings are available on a walk-in basis for school health screenings. Children ages four and older entering Georgia's School system for the first time must have the Georgia Certificate of Eye, Ear and Dental Screening form and the Georgia Certificate of Immunization completed. Dental screenings are available Monday to Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. on a walk-in basis at Dental Clinic 1. For more information, call 767-8513. Immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday from 1- 3 p.m. For more information, call the Allergy Immunization Clinic at 435-6633. Eye and ear services are available by appointment only. To schedule an eye or ear screening, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

### TRICARE For Life offered

Are you 65 or over or about to turn 65? If so, please stop by the TRICARE Service Center at 852 Harmon Ave., Bldg. 202, Fort Stewart to receive more information about what TRICARE For Life benefits are available for you. Information can also be obtained by calling 1-866-773-0404.

### Sports physicals offered

School sports physicals are available by appointment during normal clinic hours Monday through Friday at Winn's Pediatrics and Family Practice clinic. To schedule a sports physical, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

### TRICARE Service Center open

The TRICARE Service Center is located at 852 Harmon Ave., Bldg. 202 Fort Stewart. The hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is 1-800-444-5445.

### I'm pregnant. Now what?

Congratulations on your pregnancy. Prenatal care is available at both Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart and Tuttle Army Health Clinic at Hunter Army Airfield.

Pregnancy tests are available. Active duty Soldiers need a documented pregnancy from the laboratory. Civilian spouses may confirm pregnancy with a home test or by a hospital urine test.

Please call 435-6633 to schedule a new OB nurse interview and an OB physical appointment at Winn or Tuttle. You can also make appointments in person. The Women's Health Center One Heart...One Purpose...One Team.

### Book appointments online

Want an alternative to calling the appointment line? TRICARE online could be your answer. You can book your appointments online at the TRICARE online Web site, [www.tricareonline.com](http://www.tricareonline.com). This link is also available through the Winn Web site homepage, [www.winn.amedd.army.mil](http://www.winn.amedd.army.mil).

### Let's hear from you

We need you, our customer, to take our Winn Survey. Please stop by the Patient Representative's Office on the first floor of the hospital, suite CH32, to take our five-minute computer survey about your visit at Winn on the day of your visit.

### Volunteers welcome

Winn Army Community Hospital is seeking adult volunteers who are interested in performing administrative, clerical or clinical duties throughout the hospital. The next hospital volunteer orientation is scheduled for 9 a.m., June 7. For more information, call Brigitte Roberts at 435-6903, e-mail: [brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil](mailto:brigitte.roberts@se.amedd.army.mil).

### Fix DEERS to receive healthcare

Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting [www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm) or stopping by Building 253 on Fort Stewart.

### Ready to quit class

This class is for those interested in quitting tobacco use. This class is a pre-requisite to Tobacco Use Cessation classes. The classes are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m. For more information or to make an appointment, at Winn or Tuttle call 435-5071 or 1-800-652-9221.



# Examples of leaders, taking strength, courage from God



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Harlon Trplett  
3rd Inf. Div. Chaplain

We have all heard the thousands of great quotes available in the quote books on leadership. I enjoy reading and trying to put in to practice the advice contained in these quotes by great men and women who themselves are or were great leaders.

Great generals and admirals, successful athletic coaches, and leaders of highly successful corporations all stress the vital importance of leadership in any organization.

Sir Earnest Henry Shackleton has been called "the greatest leader that ever came on God's Earth, bar none."

Although he is better known for his failures than his successes, he succeeded at the impossible and is considered by many the model of what right leadership looks like in a crisis situation. In 1914 Shackleton set out from England with a crew of 27 to attempt the very first crossing of the Antarctic on foot. Before even getting the chance to begin his mission his ship, the Endurance, became stuck in the ice for months

and eventually sank leaving him and his crew stranded 1,200 miles from civilization in the harshest environment on the face of the Earth.

They were drifting on ice floes with three small lifeboats and a minimum amount of provisions salvaged from the ship. How Shackleton was able to pull this diverse group of men together in this life and death survival situation is a classic study on great leadership.

The leadership skills that Shackleton exhibited include tremendous optimism, careful planning, courage, discipline, flexibility, and constant communication. Though faced with the toughest survival situation imaginable, in the Antarctic with no communication with the outside world and no hope of rescue, Shackleton was able to lead all of his men back to safety without losing one of them during their ordeal, which lasted a year and a half.

I highly encourage all who wish to become better leaders to obtain and study one of the many books available on Shackleton and his travels.

Anyone who has seen the movie "Apollo 13" appreciates the leadership skills exhibited by

Capt. James Lovell Jr. that eventually led his men to safety against seemingly insurmountable odds.

I strongly believe that to some degree each one of us is in a survival situation here in Iraq. I also believe that we need to turn to the Lord to see us safely through this tough situation we find ourselves in.

Just as his men turned to Earnest Shackleton in the most dire survival situation possible we need to turn to our God for guidance, advice, strength, courage, and our safety and salvation.

No matter the outcome here, God will ultimately see us through.

### Protestant Women of the Chapel

The PWOC are beginning a Summer Bible Study: "God is Closer Than You Think," 10 a.m. to Noon, Every Wednesday, May 23-July 25 at Marne Chapel. Free childcare is provided for children up to age 11. Everyone is welcome to join in fellowship and study. For more information call Sara Fisher at (616) 204-6519.

## Chapel Schedule

### Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Heritage	9 a.m.
Saturday Mass	Heritage	5 p.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Victory	11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	9 a.m.
American Samoan	Vale	11 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	11 a.m.
Kids' Church(K to 6th grade)	Across from Dia. Elem.	11 a.m.
PWOC (Wednesday)	Marne	10 a.m.

Islamic		
Friday Jum'ah	Marne	1:30 p.m.
Contact Staff Sgt. Aiken at 877-4053.		

Jewish		
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 332-2084.		
Friday	Marne	11:30 a.m.

### Hunter Army Airfield

Catholic		
Sunday Mass	Chapel	11 a.m.

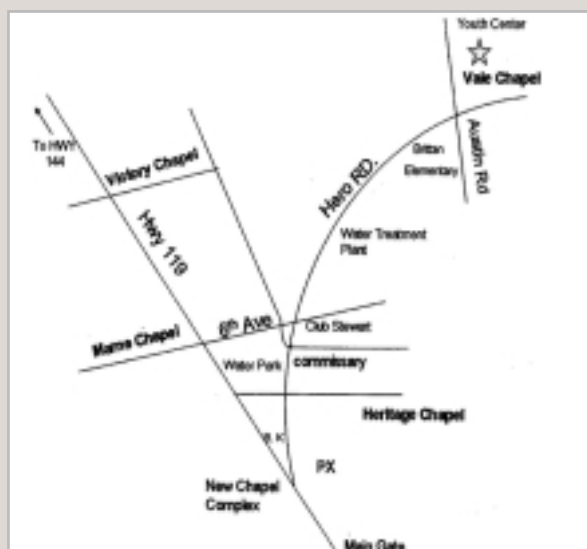
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Chapel	9 a.m.

### Religious Education Contacts

Stewart and Hunter, Director of RE, Mike Iliff, call 767-9789.  
Stewart Catholic RE coordinator, Beth Novak, call 767-6825.  
Hunter Catholic RE coordinator, Pamela Perez, call 315-5440.

## Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry Junior and Senior High Students!

Join us for free games and pizza  
6:30 - 8 p.m. Sunday,  
at Vale Chapel in Bryan Village.  
For more information,  
call 877-7207.



## Kids Church

### Exciting Bible Lessons

with music, puppets, videos, crafts, games

### 11 a.m. to Noon, Sunday

at School Age Services

(across from Diamond Elementary)

## For all kids Grade K-6

### Scheduled Bus Pick-up

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty and Anzio, Liberty and Rome

10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch

10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia, Rogers and Argyle

10:40 a.m. - Naktong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea

10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel

10:55 a.m. - Victory Chapel

Questions?

Contact Chaplain Ric Thompson at 767-6831



# Hinesville homeschoolers honored



**Young graduates and grade promotion recipients from the Fort Stewart and Hinesville Home School Group show off their caps and gowns at the home-school graduation and promotion ceremony for the 2006-2007 school year May 16 at Club Stewart.**

**Pvt. Jerome Arp**  
*4th BCT Public Affairs*

The Fort Stewart and Hinesville Home School Group held a home school graduation and promotion ceremony for the 2006-2007 school year May 16 at Club Stewart.

The group meets weekly, and offers education to students from pre-school through 12th grade. The school year lasts from August until May.

Parents of the children and volunteers from the community teach the children within their own specialty. The subjects range from astronomy to knitting.

Maj. Samuel Martirosian, military intelligence officer for 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and his Family have put each of their five children through the program. Their oldest son graduated last year and has joined the Navy.

According to Martirosian, his son was able to focus on his own creative

skills during the school years, which were computer circuiting, he was able to get the exact job he wanted in the Navy.

The guest speaker for the night was Chaplain (Capt.) Tom Allen, Winn Army Community Hospital chaplain.

"We want to instill in our children a love of life and a love of learning," said Allen. "We're those weird Families who love to spend time with their children."

Allen and his Family have been actively involved in home school activities and have educated all four of their children with the program.

The Allens' twin daughters, Hayley Marie and Heidi Kay, both graduated from the 12th grade this year.

Hayley Marie is attending Brewton Parker Baptist College in the fall, and hopes to major in photography.

Heidi Kay, also attending Brewton Parker Baptist College in the fall, plans on majoring in computer graphics.

Before the ceremony, the Families and friends of the graduates and promotion recipients sang an original song, "The 14 days of home schooling", to the tune of "The 12 days of Christmas".

Although there were only two high school graduates, each grade promotion was given equal importance.

"My daughter graduated from sixth grade this year," said Sgt. Jesse Everson of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment.

"I feel as a father, I have more control of what she learns with this program," said Everson.

Everson also mentioned that it will be his daughter's decision on whether or not she'll attend her high school years with the program.

The Fort Stewart and Hinesville group encourages Families interested in the program to seek more information at Child Youth Services, Fort Stewart.

# Installation supports American Wetlands Month

**Special to the Frontline**

May is the month we recognize and celebrate the wonderful ways wetlands enrich the environment and people.

May marks the 17th anniversary of American Wetlands Month, which was inaugurated in 1991 by the Environmental Protection Agency and its partners in federal, state, tribal, and local governments as well as private and nonprofit organizations, as a way to educate Americans about the value of wetlands as a natural resource.

Wetlands are the link between land and water, where the flow of water, the cycling of nutrients and the energy of the sun meet to produce highly productive ecosystems. Wetlands may not be wet year-round. In fact, some of the most important wetlands are seasonally dry transition zones. They are among the most valuable but least understood of all natural resources. They are an important transition zone in our nation's watersheds – the vital link between land and water.

Wetlands benefit our communities. They clean and replenish water supplies, reduce flood risks, provide recreational opportunities and aesthetic benefits, as well as provide a rich habitat for wildlife. They are places in which many animals and birds build nests and raise their young. Migrating birds stop over in wetlands to rest and to breed on abundant plant life that flourishes there.

Unfortunately, for many years wetlands have been misunderstood and often viewed as wastelands to be drained and converted to other uses. Americans have begun to recognize the value and importance of wetlands, and the rate of loss has declined dramatically over the last 30 years. Due to the concerted efforts of our government and our cit-

izens, the number of wetland acres in the nation has increased.

However, many challenges remain. Wetlands are stressed by pollution, invasive species and over development. It is important that we continue to stop the loss of wetlands and begin to achieve a net gain through better management and restoration.

Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield is a glowing example of better management and restoration. It has a tremendous challenge of protecting its wetlands. Stewart, Hunter has recognized the value of its wetlands and meets the many demands for training while balancing the challenges of managing them properly. Of its 279,200 acres, approximately 91,036 acres of it are wetlands. This equates to a total of approximately 30 percent of the installation.

Stewart/Hunter is one of three armor and artillery training areas in the nation with adequate land area to support training troops on maneuver exercises that simulate real-life battle conditions. Therefore due to this, Stewart has a very active training schedule, attracting not only the Army but the Marine Corps and National Guard.

Due to the ranges being designed in the 1950s, and with today's technology advancements of tanks and other armored fighting vehicles, Stewart found the need to expand its military ranges. Thereby, leading to the great burden to expand the installation's training areas while protecting its jurisdictional wetlands and important wildlife.

This need led the Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division to encourage the post to establish a wetlands mitigation bank. The wetland mitigation bank is a site where wetlands once existed, but have been altered in such a way that they are not considered to be jurisdictional or regulated by

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These sites are then identified, restored, enhanced or in exceptional circumstances, preserved or created expressly for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation in advance of authorized impacts to similar resources.

Stewart's implementation of a wetlands mitigation bank satisfied the needs of the installation with regards to expanding ranges to account for any significant disturbances to wetlands adjacent to or within these ranges. This bank is located at Pond 4, west of Fort Stewart road 40 in training compartments TA, E-2, E-3, and E-4.

The federal policy of "no net loss to wetlands" is what drove the establishment of the Fort Stewart Wet Bank. The FSWB enables Stewart to continue meeting its mission training objectives while complying with the Clean Water Act and the current "no net loss to wetlands" federal policy.

Work on the FSWB was initiated in 1994, formally permitted in April 1999, and the first credits received in 2000. Recently, the FSWB was utilized to mitigate wetlands for the Convoy Live Fire Road Widening and IED Expansion Project.

This bank has already proven to be a valuable asset to the installation. Mitigation of wetland impacts is a major focus of natural resource management at Stewart. Since some projects impact jurisdictional wetlands, these projects would not be possible, but because of the advance credits from the bank, it allows for construction to continue. Thus, Stewart is able to maintain its viable training stature with facilities that meet the training mission without causing undue harm to its wetland environment.

If you have questions, please contact the DPW Environmental Division at 767-2010.



Courtesy Photo  
**Wetlands benefit communities, replenishing water supplies and reducing flood damage.**



Winn Army Community Hospital invites you to,  
**Meet**  
**Dr. John Brown, M.D.**  
Family Practitioner

Medical Degree:  
University of Southern California

Board Certification:  
Family Practice



**Volunteer Spotlight**

Rachel Korish of Cashton, Wis., is an American Red Cross volunteer working in the Family Practice Clinic at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Korish volunteers because she wants to build her resume, meet new people, learn new and exciting things and make a difference in peoples' lives. Her interests and hobbies include spending time with friends and family, shopping, watching movies, playing volleyball and going to the beach.

If you'd like more information about becoming a Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 435-6903.



Photo courtesy of 1st BCT  
**Family members of deployed Soldiers with the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, paint their hand prints into a flag and sent it off to their loved ones in Iraq, April 28.**



Orlandria Austin

## Girl Scouts support the troops

**The girls of Brownie Girl Scout Troop 366 have demonstrated their ability to participate in a public service project, while supporting deployed Soldiers. The girls donated thirty-six cans of Silly String to the Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment in Iraq. They donated the string to**

**the Soldiers, who use it to detect trip wires around bombs. The girls of Troop 366 will always have a way of remembering their public service day because their actions help Soldiers do their duty. The girls earned a Public Service Girl Scout Patch for their actions.**



# Coastal Happenings

Courtesy of the Coastal Courier

## Savannah Cultural Events

Activities sponsored by the Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs include these ongoing events:

### Every first Friday of the month

Folk Music by Savannah Folk Music Society, 7:30 p.m., free at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

The Arts at City Market Center, Upstairs, Jefferson and West St. Julian Streets, free 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Call 232-7731.

### Every first Saturday of the month

Adult and youth basic ballroom dance classes, by Moon River Dancers: 1-3 p.m. at W. Broad Street YMCA, 1110 May Street. Admission is \$3 per person. Call 925-7416 or visit [www.savannahusabda.org](http://www.savannahusabda.org)

### Every third Wednesday of the month

Open Mic Poetry Night - sign-up at 7:45 p.m., Gallery Espresso, 6 East Liberty St. Call 233-5348 for more information.

### Saturdays and Sundays

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation tours 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays. Located at 207 E. Charlton St. on Lafayette Square.

Born in Savannah in 1925, writer, Mary Flannery O'Connor, lived in a Charlton Street house until 1938.

Today, it is maintained partly as a memorial to her and partly as a literary center for Savannah. Literary activities are held at various times now through May, free. Call 233-6014.

### Every Sunday

Oldie Goldies Sunday at the American Legion Post 500, 1716 Montgomery St., 4-8 p.m. Call 925-7116.

The Reel Savannah Film Group presentations, 7 p.m., Sunday evenings at the Lucas Theatre. Tickets, which are \$6, are available an hour before showtime.

## Visit Armstrong Arboretum

Armstrong Atlantic State University has an arboretum, which encompasses the 250 acre campus and displays more than 100 species of trees and 200 species of shrubs

and other woody plants.

The Fern Collection, featuring 23 varieties of native and non-native ferns, is on the west side of Jenkins Hall. The recently completed Ginger Collection focuses on seven groups of ginger plants and is at the south end of Hawes Hall. For more information or to schedule an educational tour, call AASU's plant operations at 921-5472.

## Free dance lessons offered

Free ballroom dancing lessons are being offered at Club Stewart from 7 to 9 p.m., the first Wednesday of every month by the Moon River Dancers Association in Savannah. It is for Soldiers and their Families. Couples and singles welcome.

No registration is required. For more information, call 767-8609.

Also, if you're into ballroom dancing and don't mind the drive, the Seaside Dance Association in St. Simons Island has dances at 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday through the summer at Blanche's Courtyard starting.

The association also hosts a dance on the last Sunday of each month at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, in the grand dining room. Instruction starts at 5:15 p.m., and seating for the dinner and dance starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 634-9527 or e-mail to [SeasideDance@bellsouth.net](mailto:SeasideDance@bellsouth.net).

## Traveling Wall visits Savannah

The traveling version of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial will make its way to the Coastal Empire. Half the size of the original structure located in Washington, DC, "The Wall That Heals" is etched with the more than 58,000 names of those who died in the war.

Opening ceremonies are scheduled June 14 at Emmet Park in Savannah and events will wrap up the following Sunday, June 17. Leisure Services City of Savannah is sponsoring the event and it will be hosted by the Vietnam Veteran's of America Chapter 671. Call 927-3356 or visit [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org) for

more information.

## Chess, anyone?

Adults and children alike are invited to play chess in the Statesboro Mall from 3-5 p.m. every Sunday. Chess in the mall is hosted by the Ogeechee River Scholastic Chess Association and school chess clubs throughout Bulloch County. For more information email [www.chess85.tripod.com](mailto:www.chess85.tripod.com) or [j-lutz@enia.net](mailto:j-lutz@enia.net) or call 764-9770. Also, Robert Lott is trying to stir interest in the game around Hinesville. If you're interested in playing, and possibly forming a club, call 876-4715.

## Visit Georgia's natural springs

Georgia's state parks and historic sites host three natural springs that have helped shape the state and our culture.

The best known is Warm Springs. The town of Warm Springs was host to Georgia's high society during the early 1900s, and it became the vacation home of Franklin D. Roosevelt after he sought relief from polio in the warm, therapeutic water. Today, his home and the pools are part of the Little White House State Historic Site. Just off I-75 in middle Georgia is Indian Springs State Park, thought to be the oldest state park in the nation.

The Civilian Conservation Corp built many of the park's facilities, including the spring house where people still gather today to fill jugs with the mineral water. In addition to the springs and rich history, visitors will enjoy the park's campground, cottages, museum, lakeside swimming beach and picnic areas.

In the east central town of Millen is Magnolia Springs State Park, known for crystal clear springs flowing seven-million gallons per day.

This pretty park features a freshwater aquarium with native species of fish, reptiles and amphibians, as well as picnic areas, cottages, a campground, small boating lake, and trails for hiking and biking. For more information contact the FDR's Little

White House Historic Site, Warm Springs at 706-655-5870, [www.FDR-LittleWhiteHouse.com](http://www.FDR-LittleWhiteHouse.com), Indian Springs State Park, Flovilla at 770-504-2277, [www.GaStateParks.org](http://www.GaStateParks.org), Magnolia Springs State Park, Millen at 478-982-1660 or [www.GaStateParks.org](http://www.GaStateParks.org)

## Memorial Day Fort McAllister

Bring a picnic lunch from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and plan to spend the whole day enjoying the historical programs, walking the nature trails, fishing and boating. Civil War Soldiers will be demonstrating the loading and firing of Civil War muskets and cannons every hour as well as blacksmithing and cooking. A small admission is charged and pets are welcomed on a six-foot leash. The park is located in Richmond Hill at the end of Georgia Spur 144. For more information, call 727-2339.

## Visit the Healing Field

The Raising Our Children Kindly group will host the second annual Memorial Healing Field Flag Display, June 22-24 at the National Guard Armory in Savannah. A flag will be flown for each child reported abused and neglected in Chatham County in 2006.

A new addition in 2007 is a Soldiers Memorial Field at the center of the Healing Field. One flag will be placed for each Soldier from Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield that has lost a life in the current conflict. Right now that number is 326 of our troops. Each flag will have a yellow ribbon bearing the soldier's name in addition to the name of an abused child on a blue ribbon. The Soldiers Memorial Field will be enhanced with white fencing.

Also new this year will be a Flag of Honor and a Flag of Heroes Memorial. The Flag of Honor bears the names of each victim of Sept. 11 attacks from all four planes, the pentagon, and the twin towers.

In addition, individuals can purchase a flag to be flown in the healing field in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one.

# Stewart bids farewell to mayors, welcomes incoming

Pfc. Amanda McBride  
4th BCT Public Affairs

The annual Mayors' Reception for incoming and outgoing mayors for Fort Stewart was held May 18 at the Family Readiness Center.

Incoming and outgoing mayors and vice mayors were honored for their involvement in the mayors' program.

"The annual Mayors' Reception is an induction of new mayors and farewell to the old mayors," said Kathleen Thornton, mayor advisor.

This year's reception welcomed ten new mayors and vice mayors and welcomed back nine existing mayors.

The mayors' program was created to get Family Members of servicemembers involved in what happens on post.

"The mayors' program is the link between the garrison command and the residents on this installation," Thornton said.

Mayors work with garrison to

bridge communication between residents and garrison.

"The mayors' program is a fabulous facility that is underused because most don't understand what it is and how to use it," said Thornton.

Mayors inform new residents in their housing area and inform existing residents of post rules and regulations.

"We are not the MPs; not the command; we are their voice," said Thornton.

Mayors inform residents of functions happening on post and inform garrison command of things that would improve the quality of military life for residents.

Spouses of servicemembers on post can participate in the mayors' program by contacting their housing area mayor or by going to ACS.

All someone has to do to become involved in the mayors' program is come to meetings, said Rebecka L. Ponton, mayor of Southern Oaks housing area.



Rebecka Ponton (center) was appointed mayor of Southern Oaks, May 18 at the annual Mayors Reception held at the Family Readiness Center. Presenting the award to Ponton are Col. Todd Buchs, Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield garrison commander and his wife, Renee.

# Arts, Entertainment: Sasha's Top 10 Asian American films

## Commentary by:

Sasha McBrayer  
Fort Stewart Museum

**The Painted Veil** - Naomi Watts ("The Ring", "King Kong") stars opposite powerhouse actor Edward Norton ("The Illusionist", "American History X") in this 'almost love' story set in 1920s era China. The pair plays a British couple who marry too quickly. As a result Watts, as the self centered socialite, "Kitty", becomes bored and drawn to infidelity. Angered, her scientist husband, sentences them both to possible death by striking out to a remote Chinese village to help stop a cholera outbreak. Amidst the danger and the fight between the frustrated couple, their hearts are unexpectedly rejuvenated.

**Better Luck Tomorrow** - When a group of Asian-American high schoolers, (many straight-laced, over achieving, suburb dwellers) find themselves stressed and bored, they discover that secretly starting a string of petty crimes helps quell the pressures they each face. Though the film's intentions are good, and viewers get a portrait of an Asian-American clique growing up in the middle class, the plot spirals out into somewhat fantastical proportions.

**Snow Falling on Cedars** - Based on the novel of the same name, and including some breathtaking natural shots, this is another tragic love story set in the 1950s along the Washington State coastline.

When a white landlord turns up murdered and his Japanese-American neighbor is the key suspect, Ethan Hawk's character "Ishmael Chambers", a reporter, is forced to relive his long lost romance with the murder suspect's beautiful wife. Not just a portrait of early Washington State, this film is also a picture of post-war anti-Japanese sentimentality.

**The Joy Luck Club** - Based on renowned author, Amy Tan's novel, this string of emotional stories reveals the lives of Asian-American women and their courageous mothers who lived turbulent lives in China.

**Pushing Hands** - From acclaimed director, Ang Lee, this is the story of an elderly Chinese teacher who leaves China to live with his grandson and his American wife in New York City.

Tension begins to fracture everyone involved in the culture clash. The film allows for a look at T'ai Chi and the conflict between

East and West, the traditional and the modern.

**Memoirs of a Geisha** - The novel was at the top of favorite's lists for many people in Hollywood. It seemed destined to become a film and when it did it wowed millions. This is the close up and personal story of a girl forced into the life of a geisha in 1920s Japan. The story and the cinematography are stunning. My only complaint about this film was the use of two Chinese leading ladies in the telling of a Japanese tale. Still the acting was decent. Not all the reviews of this tale were good.

**Shogun** - This exciting, epic, historical miniseries was narrated by Orson Welles and starred Richard Chamberlain as a European sailor marooned on Japan before the country was open to outsiders. When it was released on NBC it received some of the highest ratings in history. It highlights the differences between East and West, but is also a beautiful look inside traditional Japanese culture. Viewers can even pick up basic Japanese language as the series progresses. My box set of Shogun on DVD is among my most treasured items.

**The Last Samurai** - When I first saw this

film starring Tom Cruise as a tortured American Army Captain enlisted to help 1800s era Japan step into the modern age of military tactics and kill off the last of the romantic samurai rebels, I felt like I was watching a more condensed version of Shogun, the miniseries. This beautiful film also stars Ken Watanabe, easily one of the most sensitive actors on the screen. There are also great fight sequences in this one.

**The Beautiful Country** - Starring Damien Nguyen and Nick Nolte ("I Love Trouble", "Affliction", "48 Hours"). This is the tragic and compelling story of a young Vietnamese man who has never met his American GI father, but suffers greatly simply because his blood is mixed. Encountering unimaginable obstacles as his misfortune accelerates; he is driven toward America and the goal of ultimately meeting his father and learning why the man abandoned him. This unique story is filled with truth and heart.

**Letters from Iwo Jima** - When Clint Eastwood decided to tell a war story from both the American and Japanese points of view, he created two award nominated films. With "...Iwo Jima" he fathered a remarkable portrait of war and the simple men mixed up in it. This is what every film should strive to be. Ken Watanabe delivers another artful performance.





# Luncheon feeds physical, spiritual needs

**Sgt. Tanya Polk**  
Editor

"I waited to die," said Lt. Col. (retired) Brian Birdwell.

After American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon just 15 yards from his office, Birdwell was swallowed in flames. Over 60 percent of his body was burned, half of which were third-degree.

Soldiers and civilians listened intently at a Spiritual Luncheon held at Club Stewart May 17, as Birdwell retold the horrors of his near-death experience due to the Sept. 11 attacks.

A victim of pure terrorism, Birdwell has miraculously recovered after more than 30 operations and months of multiple skin grafts, burn treatments and therapy sessions.

He lives today testifying not only his physical healing, but his spiritual healing.

"I hope to encourage and spiritually prepare you for what my come your way too," Birdwell told his listeners.

"I survived with 15-20 yards because of the Lord's plan for my life."

Silence hovered the room as luncheon attendees remained speechless as Birdwell went into detail of his burns.

Tears fell as listeners took in Birdwell's words of

God's grace.

"I was unable to speak, left there in my own silence, mummied up," said Birdwell. "But, the Lord had a different plan for me."

Birdwell, in his critical condition, came to accept his death. He made a silent plea to the Lord that he was ready to come home. Birdwell said that although he had come to accept his death, the Lord had a different plan in store for him.

"You see, the Lord had me at the right place, at the right time," he said.

"Such an event in our lives should not deter us from Christ."

Heads nodded in agreement as Birdwell continued to share his testimony.

"No matter the suffering that you go through," he said, "the Lord will use that to better your relationship with him."

The 3rd Infantry Division hosts the Spiritual Luncheon quarterly. Attendees enjoy lunch and a guest speaker's testimony of God's grace.

"We not only need our physical nutrition, but we need our spiritual nutrition," said Col. Michael Walker, installation chaplain. "And, this is one way to do that."

Chap. (Capt.) Pratima Dharmendran, 3rd Special Troops Battalion chaplain agreed that the luncheon fulfilled her spiritual needs.

"I came to hear the word of God," she said. "In a very human situation of suffering, I sensed the glory of God- the grace that was there to save this person's life."

Fort Stewart holds the Spiritual Luncheons as part of the commanding general's emphasis in helping Soldiers and Families prepare for their missions.

"Our lives are kind of like a stool or a table," explained Walker. "You can have a three-legged stool, but a four legged stool is more stable. The fourth leg of that stool represents our inner being-our spiritual side."

Walker continued, "We, as Soldiers, may be physically prepared and mentally prepared and trained and ready for the mission, but without the spiritual-there's a part of us that's not quite in touch or in tune."

"We need someone who can help feed us spiritually, and help develop who we are," said Walker, "and, I think that was done today."



Sgt. Tanya Polk

***Soldiers and civilians listened to Lt. Col. (retired) Brian Birdwell as he shared his horrifying experience of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks at a Spiritual Luncheon held at Club Stewart, May 17. Birdwell said it was God's grace that pulled him through as he survived burns that scorched over 60 percent of his body. Birdwell continues to share the word of God in hope to encourage others to do the same. The Spiritual Luncheon is a quarterly function of the 3rd Inf. Div.***